THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to bring 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuel crops. However, bio-fuel plantations comprising jatropha and karanj have been undertaken in the country with Government assistance.

(c) The bio-fuel plantations are encouraged in the degraded lands.

(d) No, Sir.

Shortage of manpower in healthcare sector

*479. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing an acute shortage of manpower in the healthcare sector and most of the physicians are migrating to developed countries like Britain and US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any strategy to meet the demand for doctors in the country's healthcare sector and to check the brain drain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,02,580. This, the allopathic doctor-population works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than six lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870. There are 271 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 31,122 who add upto the existing medical manpower.

In order to expand the facilities of the medical education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in the under-served States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government medical colleges/ institutions in 10 States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new medical colleges in the Government as well as private sector and also an increase in intake capacity of medical students. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to two-doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level.

Government have also recognized the Post-Graduate Degrees given by institutions in five countries, *viz.* U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zeland, in order to remove barriers from and encourage the return of Indian doctors working overseas who may have acquired their specialist qualifications in these English speaking developed countries.

Breast Cancer

†*480. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the number of women who die every year due to breast cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the hospitals/primary healthcare centres in the country are not properly detecting breast cancer cases at the first stage;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether the breast cancer awareness programmes are also not reaching the poor and rural women; and

(e) if so, the strategies to be adopted to make hospitals/health centres equipped to handle such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) No such assessment on annual mortality due to Breast Cancer has been centrally maintained. However, based on the data on mortality rates collected by Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCR) under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Mumbai and Chennai for the year 2001—2003, expected mortality due to Breast Cancer in the year 2007 would be about 41,300.

Health being a State Subject, it is for the State Government to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Under the scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), special emphasis is being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness under District Cancer Control Programme. Under NCCP, the Central Government is also strengthening the efforts of the State Governments for creating cancer treatment facilities by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals. In addition, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is already operational and strengthening the health care delivery across the country.

The NCCP is being implemented with the objectives of primary prevention through health education, secondary prevention through early detection and diagnosis of cancer and strengthening of cancer treatment facilities. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities including cancer testing facilities in respective regions/States are provided by 27 Regional Centres in different parts of the country. The public awareness about cancer is also being carried out through Electronic and Print Media including telecast of the Programme "Kalyani" on Doordarshan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tuna fishing

3389. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposed to buy two tuna training fishing boats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is an actute shortage of trained crew for tuna fishing boats in the country at present;

(d) the time likely to be taken to train the crew before they join the Indian fishery sector; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to help tuna fishing sector find trained crew from overseas till the trained crew from the country is available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government proposes to acquire one tuna longliner cum trawler and one tuna purse-siener for imparting training and for carrying out survey of oceanic tuna resources in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) to (e) The Government has appointed a Sub-Committee under the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee to examine these issues and their findings are awaited.